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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A basketball system for use in playing basketball-related games on sand covered outdoor environments, comprising:

5 a wind-transmissive backboard structure having a backboard surface disposed substantially within a first plane, bounded by a frame structure, and characterized by a high degree of air permeability across said backboard surface so that air currents, expected in said sand covered outdoor environments, can pass through said backboard surface with minimal resistance yet deflect a
10 lightweight basketball when tossed thereagainst during basketball-related games:

a basketball hoop structure defining an opening through which a basketball can be passed during said basketball-related games, and generally disposed within a second plane substantially perpendicular to said first plane; and

15 a pole assembly, including a plurality of arrangeable pole sections, for supporting said wind-transmissive backboard structure at a height above the surface of a sand bed located in said sand covered outdoor environment.

2. The basketball system of claim 1, which further comprises

20 a pole anchoring device for driving beneath said sand bed and supporting said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation, while playing said basketball-related games.

3. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

25 a frame structure having a perimetrical border defining said the boundaries of said backboard surface; and

30 an open-cell type mesh material stretched tightly about and fastened to said frame structure so as to form a planar backboard surface which presents minimal resistance to expected air currents present on the beach or along a shoreline, and undergoes resilient surface distortion when a lightweight basketball is bounced off the backboard surface during said basket-ball related games.

35 4. The basketball system of claim 3, wherein said open-cell mesh material comprises screen material.

5. The basketball system of claim 4, wherein said screen material is integrated with said perimetrical border.

6. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a solid substrate of substantially planar geometry; and

a plurality of fine air-transmission apertures formed over the surface of said solid substrate.

7. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of telescopically-connected tubes which are intercoupled using telescopic linking mechanisms.

8. The basketball system of claim 7, wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected tubes comprises:

a pole encasing tube of largest diameter affixed to the rear side of said backboard frame; and

wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected pole sections are enclosable within said pole encasing tube.

9. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein either one, two or all of said telescopically-connected pole sections can be pulled out from said pole encasing tube and locked into position to support said wind-transmissive backboard structure at said height above said sand bed.

10. The basketball system of claim 7, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve for surrounding a substantial portion of said pole assembly.

11. The basketball system of claim 10, wherein the innermost telescopically-connected pole section comprises a disc-like flange located from the end thereof, for delimiting the movement of said inflatable pole cushioning sleeve off said innermost telescopically-connected pole section.

12. The basketball system of claim 10, wherein when said inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve is deflated, and said pole assembly is completely retracted within said pole encasing tube, said deflated cushioning sleeve is delimited by said disc-like flange.

13. The basketball system of claim 7, wherein said basketball hoop structure is hingedly connected to said frame structure.

14. The basketball system of claim 13, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly are contained within said pole enclosing tube,

whereby said transportable basketball system is arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

15. The basketball system of claim 13, wherein said basketball hoop structure is releasably connected to said frame structure.

16. The basketball system of claim 15, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve disposed about said pole assembly when transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, for providing added safety measures to players.

17. The basketball system of claim 14, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of pole sections interconnectable to provide a pole structure to support said wind-transmissive pole assembly above said sand-bed at said height.

18. The basketball system of claim 17, wherein

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface, and

said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

19. The basketball system of claim 15, wherein

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure, and

said basketball hoop structure can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

20. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

21. The basketball system of claim 19, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

22. The basketball system of claim 20, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

23. The basketball system of claim 7, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

24. The basketball system of claim 23, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

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25. The basketball system of claim 23, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

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26. The basketball system of claim 2, wherein said pole anchoring device includes a pole anchoring plate having perforations which allow grains of dry sand to flow therethrough, and set up with surrounding grains of sand when the pole anchoring plate is buried beneath a bed of dry sand during the pole installation process.

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27. The basketball system of claim 1, in combination with a flexible carrying case for carrying said transportable basketball system when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

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28. A basketball system for use in playing basketball-related games on sand covered outdoor environments, comprising:

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a wind-transmissive backboard structure having a backboard surface disposed substantially within a first plane, bounded by a frame structure, and characterized by a high degree of air permeability across said backboard surface so that air currents, expected in said sand covered outdoor environments, can pass through said backboard surface with minimal resistance yet deflect a lightweight basketball when tossed thereagainst during basketball-related games;

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a basketball hoop structure defining an opening through which a basketball can be passed during said basketball-related games, and generally disposed within a second plane substantially perpendicular to said first plane;

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a pole assembly, including a plurality of arrangeable pole sections, for supporting said wind-transmissive backboard structure at a height above the surface of a sand bed located in said sand covered outdoor environment; and

a pole anchoring device for driving beneath said sand bed and supporting said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation, while playing said basketball-related games.

29. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a frame structure having a perimetrical border defining said the boundaries of said backboard surface; and

an open-cell type mesh material stretched tightly about and fastened to said frame structure so as to form a planar backboard surface which presents minimal resistance to expected air currents present on the beach or along a shoreline, and undergoes minimal surface distortion when a lightweight basketball is bounced off the backboard surface during said basket-ball related games.

30. The basketball system of claim 29, wherein said open-cell mesh material comprises screen material.

31. The basketball system of claim 30, wherein said screen material is integrated with said perimetrical border.

32. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a solid substrate of substantially planar geometry; and

a plurality of fine air-transmission apertures formed over the surface of said solid substrate.

33. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of telescopically-connected tubes which are intercoupled using telescopic linking mechanisms.

34. The basketball system of claim 33, wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected tubes comprises:

a pole encasing tube of largest diameter affixed to the rear side of said backboard frame;

wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected pole sections are enclosable within said pole encasing tube.

35. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein either one, two or all of said telescopically-connected pole sections can be pulled out from said pole encasing tube and locked into position to support said wind-transmissive backboard structure at said height above said sand bed.

36. The basketball system of claim 33, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve for surrounding a substantial portion of said pole assembly.

27. The basketball system of claim 36, wherein the innermost telescopically-connected pole section comprises a disc-like flange located from the end thereof for delimiting the movement of said inflatable pole cushioning sleeve off said innermost telescopically-connected pole section.

38. The basketball system of claim 37, wherein when said inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve is deflated, and said pole assembly is completely retracted within said pole encasing tube, said deflated cushioning sleeve is delimited by said disc-like flange.

39. The basketball system of claim 33, wherein said basketball hoop structure is hingedly connected to said frame structure.

40. The basketball system of claim 39, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly are contained within said pole enclosing tube,

whereby said transportable basketball system is arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

41. The basketball system of claim 39, wherein said basketball hoop structure is releasably connected to said frame structure.

42. The basketball system of claim 41, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve disposed about said pole assembly when transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, for providing added safety measures to players.

43. The basketball system of claim 40, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of pole sections interconnectable to provide as pole structure to support said wind-transmissive pole assembly above said sand-bed at said height.

44. The basketball system of claim 43, wherein

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface, and

said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

45. The basketball system of claim 41, wherein

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure, and

said basketball hoop structure can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

46. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

47. The basketball system of claim 46, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

48. The basketball system of claim 46, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for

receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

5 49. The basketball system of claim 33, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of a portion of said pole assembly; and

10 a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

50. The basketball system of claim 49, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

15 a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

20 51. The basketball system of claim 50, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

25 52. The basketball system of claim 29, wherein said pole anchoring device includes a pole anchoring plate having perforations which allow grains of dry sand to flow therethrough, and set up with surrounding grains of sand when the buried pole anchoring plate is buried beneath a bed of dry sand during the pole installation process.

30 53. The basketball system of claim 28, in combination with a flexible carrying case for carrying said transportable basketball system when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

54. A basketball system for use in playing a basketball-related games on sand covered outdoor environments, comprising:

5 a wind-transmissive backboard structure having a backboard surface disposed substantially within a first plane, bounded by a frame structure, and characterized by high degree of air permeability across said backboard surface so that air currents, expected in said sand covered outdoor environments, can pass therethrough with minimal resistance yet deflect a lightweight basketball when tossed thereagainst during basketball-related games;

10 a basketball hoop structure defining an opening through which a basketball can be passed during said basketball-related games, and generally disposed within a second plane substantially perpendicular to said first plane;

a pole assembly, including a plurality of arrangeable pole sections, for supporting said wind-transmissive backboard structure at a height above the surface of a sand bed located in said sand covered outdoor environment; and

15 a pole anchoring device for driving beneath said sand bed and supporting said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation, while playing said basketball-related games.

20 55. The basketball system of claim 54, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a frame structure having a perimetrical border defining said boundaries of said backboard surface; and

25 an open-cell type mesh material stretched tightly about and fastened to said frame structure so as to form a planar backboard surface which presents minimal resistance to expected air currents present on the beach or along a shoreline, and undergoes minimal surface distortion when a lightweight basketball is bounced off the backboard surface during said basket-ball related games.

30 56. The basketball system of claim 55, wherein said open-cell mesh material comprises screen material.

35 57. The basketball system of claim 56, wherein said screen material is integrated with said perimetrical border.

58. The basketball system of claim 54, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a solid substrate of substantially planar geometry; and

a plurality of fine air-transmission apertures formed over the surface of said solid substrate.

5 59. The basketball system of claim 54, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of telescopically-connected tubes which are intercoupled using telescopic linking mechanisms.

60. The basketball system of claim 59, wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected tubes comprises:

10 a pole encasing tube of largest diameter affixed to the rear side of said backboard frame;

wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected pole sections are enclosable within said pole encasing tube.

15 61. The basketball system of claim 59, wherein either one, two or all of said telescopically-connected pole sections can be pulled out from said pole encasing tube and locked into position to support said wind-transmissive backboard structure at said height above said sand bed.

20 62. The basketball system of claim 59, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve for surrounding a substantial portion of said pole assembly.

25 63. The basketball system of claim 59, wherein the innermost telescopically-connected pole section comprises a disc-like flange located from the end thereof, for delimiting the movement of said inflatable pole cushioning sleeve off said innermost telescopically-connected pole section.

30 64. The basketball system of claim 63, wherein when said inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve is deflated, and said pole assembly is completely retracted within said pole encasing tube, said deflated cushioning sleeve is delimited by said disc-like flange.

35 65. The basketball system of claim 59, wherein said basketball hoop structure is hingedly connected to said frame structure.

66. The basketball system of claim 65, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly are contained within said pole enclosing tube,

5 whereby said transportable basketball system is arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

10 67. The basketball system of claim 65, wherein said basketball hoop structure is releasably connected to said frame structure.

15 68. The basketball system of claim 67, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve disposed about said pole assembly when transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, for providing added safety measures to players.

20 69. The basketball system of claim 66, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of pole sections interconnectable to provide as pole structure to support said wind-transmissive pole assembly above said sand-bed at said height.

25 70. The basketball system of claim 67, wherein
 the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface, and
 said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,
 whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

30 71. The basketball system of claim 67, wherein
 the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,
 said pole sections of said pole assembly can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure, and
 said basketball hoop structure can be releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,
35 whereby said basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location.

72. The basketball system of claim 28, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

73. The basketball system of claim 71, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

74. The basketball system of claim 73, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

75. The basketball system of claim 59, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

76. The basketball system of claim 75, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole

anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

5 77. The basketball system of claim 75, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

10 78. The basketball system of claim 29, wherein said pole anchoring device includes a pole anchoring plate having perforations which allow grains of dry sand to flow therethrough, and set up with surrounding grains of sand when the buried pole anchoring plate is buried beneath a bed of dry sand during the pole installation process.

15 79. The basketball system of claim 28, in combination with a flexible carrying case for carrying said transportable basketball system when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

20 80. A transportable basketball system arrangeable in a play configuration during which a basketball-related game can be played, and arrangeable in a transport configuration during which said transportable basketball system can be easily transported between a sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location, said transportable basketball system comprising:

25 a wind-transmissive backboard structure having a backboard surface disposed substantially within a first plane, bounded by a frame structure, and characterized by high degree of air permeability across said backboard surface so that air currents, expected in said sand covered outdoor environments, can pass therethrough with minimal resistance yet deflect a lightweight basketball when tossed thereagainst during basketball-related games;

30 a basketball hoop structure defining an opening through which a basketball can be passed during said basketball-related game, and generally disposed within a second plane substantially perpendicular to said first plane when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration;

35 a pole assembly, including a plurality of arrangeable pole sections, for supporting said wind-transmissive backboard structure at a height above the surface of a sand bed located on said sand covered outdoor environment, and

a pole anchoring device for driving beneath said sand bed and supporting said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation;

wherein, during said play configuration,

said basketball hoop structure is operably connected to said wind-transmissive backboard structure and said second plane is substantially perpendicular to said first plane,

said pole assembly is operably connected to said wind-transmissive backboard structure and said pole anchoring device, and

said pole anchoring device is driven beneath said sand bed and supports said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation while said wind-transmissive backboard structure is supported at a height above the surface of said sand bed; and

wherein, during said transport configuration, said transportable basketball system is arranged in the form of a compact package, for transport to between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

81. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a frame structure having a perimetrical border defining said the boundaries of said backboard surface; and

an open-cell type mesh material stretched tightly about and fastened to said frame structure so as to form a planar backboard surface which presents minimal resistance to expected air currents present in the sand covered outdoor environment, and undergoes resilient surface distortion when a lightweight basketball is bounced off the backboard surface during game-related play.

82. The transportable basketball system of claim 81, wherein said open-cell mesh material comprises screen material.

83. The transportable basketball system of claim 82, wherein said screen material is integrated with said perimetrical border.

84. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a solid substrate of substantially planar geometry; and

a plurality of fine air-transmission apertures formed over the surface of said solid substrate.

85. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of telescopically-connected tubes which are intercoupled using telescopic linking mechanisms.

5 86. The transportable basketball system of claim 85, wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected tubes comprises:

a pole encasing tube of largest diameter affixed to the rear side of said backboard frame;

10 wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected pole sections are enclosable within said pole encasing tube during said transport configuration.

15 87. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, wherein either one, two or all of said telescopically-connected pole sections can be pulled out from said pole encasing tube and locked into position to support said wind-transmissive backboard structure at said height above said sand bed.

20 88. The transportable basketball system of claim 85, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve for surrounding a substantial portion of said pole assembly when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

25 89. The transportable basketball system of claim 88, wherein the innermost telescopically-connected pole section comprises a disc-like flange located from the end thereof, for delimiting the movement of said inflatable pole cushioning sleeve off said innermost telescopically-connected pole section.

30 90. The transportable basketball system of claim 89, wherein when said inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve is deflated, and said pole assembly is completely retracted within said pole encasing tube, said deflated cushioning sleeve is delimited by said disc-like flange.

35 91. The transportable basketball system of claim 85, wherein said basketball hoop structure is hingedly connected to said frame structure so that, when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, said first plane is substantially perpendicular to said second plane, and when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said transport configuration, said first plane is substantially parallel to said second plane.

92. The transportable basketball system of claim 91, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly are contained within said pole enclosing tube,

whereby said transportable basketball system is arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

93. The transportable basketball system of claim 91, wherein said basketball hoop structure is releasably connected to said frame structure so that, when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, said first plane is substantially perpendicular to said second plane, and when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said transport configuration, said first plane is substantially parallel to said second plane.

94. The transportable basketball system of claim 93, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve disposed about said pole assembly when transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, for providing added safety measures to players.

95. The transportable basketball system of claim 92, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of pole sections interconnectable to provide as pole structure to support said wind-transmissive pole assembly above said sand-bed at said height.

96. The transportable basketball system of claim 95, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said transportable basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

97. The transportable basketball system of claim 93, wherein, during said transport configuration,

the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure, and

said basketball hoop structure is releasably retained on the rear side of said wind-transmissive backboard structure,

whereby said transportable basketball system can be arranged for transport between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

98. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

99. The transportable basketball system of claim 98, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

100. The transportable basketball system of claim 98, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

101. The transportable basketball system of claim 85, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

5 102. The transportable basketball system of claim 99, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

10 a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

15 103. The transportable basketball system of claim 101, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

20 104. The transportable basketball system of claim 81, wherein said pole anchoring device includes a pole anchoring plate having perforations which allow grains of dry sand to flow therethrough, and set up with surrounding grains of sand when the buried pole anchoring plate is buried beneath a bed of dry sand during the pole installation process.

25 105. The transportable basketball system of claim 80, in combination with a flexible carrying case for carrying said transportable basketball system when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

30 106. A transportable basketball system arrangeable in a play configuration during which a basketball-related game can be played, and arrangeable in a transport configuration during which said transportable basketball system can be easily transported between a sand covered outdoor environment and a remote location, said transportable basketball system comprising:

35 a wind-transmissive backboard structure having a backboard surface disposed substantially within a first plane, bounded by a frame structure, and characterized by high degree of air permeability across said backboard surface

so that air currents, expected on said covered environment, can pass therethrough with minimal resistance yet deflect a lightweight basketball when tossed thereagainst during basketball-related games;

5 a basketball hoop structure defining an opening through which a basketball can be passed during said basketball-related game, and generally disposed within a second plane substantially perpendicular to said first plane when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration;

10 a pole assembly, including a plurality of arrangeable pole sections, for supporting said wind-transmissive backboard structure at a height above the surface of a sand bed located on said sand covered outdoor environment; and

a pole anchoring device for driving beneath said sand bed and supporting said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation;

wherein, during said play configuration,

15 said basketball hoop structure is operably connected to said wind-transmissive backboard structure and said second plane is substantially perpendicular to said first plane,

said pole assembly is operably connected to said wind-transmissive backboard structure and said pole anchoring device, and

20 said pole anchoring device is driven beneath said sand bed and supports said pole assembly in a substantially plumb orientation while said wind-transmissive backboard structure is supported at a height above the surface of said sand bed; and

wherein, during said transport configuration,

25 the second plane of said basketball hoop structure is orientable substantially parallel to the first said backboard surface,

said pole sections of said pole assembly are orientable in one or more planes substantially parallel to said first plane and within a space generally defined by dimensions of said frame structure,

30 whereby said transportable basketball system can be arranged for transport in a compact package between said sand covered outdoor environment and said remote location.

107. The transportable basketball system of claim 1, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

35 a frame structure having a perimetrical border defining said the boundaries of said backboard surface; and

an open-cell type mesh material stretched tightly about and fastened to said frame structure so as to form a planar backboard surface which presents minimal resistance to expected air currents present in the sand covered outdoor

environment and undergoes resilient surface distortion when a lightweight basketball is bounced off the backboard surface during game-related play.

108. The transportable basketball system of claim 107, wherein said open-cell mesh material comprises screen material.

109. The transportable basketball system of claim 108, wherein said screen material is integrated with said perimetrical border.

110. The transportable basketball system of claim 106, wherein said wind-transmissive backboard structure comprises:

a solid substrate of substantially planar geometry; and

a plurality of fine air-transmission apertures formed over the surface of said solid substrate.

111. The transportable basketball system of claim 106, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of telescopically-connected tubes which are intercoupled using telescopic linking mechanisms.

112. The transportable basketball system of claim 111, wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected tubes comprises:

a pole encasing tube of largest diameter affixed to the rear side of said backboard frame;

wherein said plurality of telescopically-connected pole sections are enclosable within said pole encasing tube during said transport configuration.

113. The transportable basketball system of claim 106, wherein either one, two or all of said telescopically-connected pole sections can be pulled out from said pole encasing tube and locked into position to support said wind-transmissive backboard structure at said height above said sand bed.

114. The transportable basketball system of claim 111, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve for surrounding a substantial portion of said pole assembly when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

115. The transportable basketball system of claim 114, wherein the innermost telescopically-connected pole section comprises a disc-like flange located from

the end thereof, for delimiting the movement of said inflatable pole cushioning sleeve off said innermost telescopically-connected pole section.

5 116. The transportable basketball system of claim 115, wherein when said inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve is deflated, and said pole assembly is completely retracted within said pole encasing tube, said deflated cushioning sleeve is delimited by said disc-like flange.

10 117. The transportable basketball system of claim 111, wherein said basketball hoop structure is hingedly connected to said frame structure so that, when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, said first plane is substantially perpendicular to said second plane, and when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said transport configuration, said first plane is substantially parallel to said second plane.

15 118. The transportable basketball system of claim 117, wherein said basketball hoop structure is releasably connected to said frame structure so that, when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, said first plane is substantially perpendicular to said second plane, and when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said transport configuration, said first plane is substantially parallel to said second plane.

20 119. The transportable basketball system of claim 118, which further comprises an inflatable pole-cushioning sleeve disposed about said pole assembly when transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration, for providing added safety measures to players.

25 120. The transportable basketball system of claim 117, wherein said pole assembly comprises a plurality of pole sections interconnectable to provide as pole structure to support said wind-transmissive pole assembly above said sand-bed at said height.

30 121. The transportable basketball system of claim 106, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

35 a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

122. The transportable basketball system of claim 121, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

123. The transportable basketball system of claim 121, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

124. The transportable basketball system of claim 111, wherein said pole anchoring device comprises:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of sand and a portion of said pole assembly; and

a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

125. The transportable basketball system of claim 124, wherein said pole anchoring device further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.

126. The transportable basketball system of claim 21, wherein said pole assembly further comprises a pole anchoring pin formed on the innermost telescopically-connected pole section, and said pole anchoring sleeve having an aperture for receiving said pole anchoring pin when the innermost

telescopically-connected pole section is inserted within said hollow inner volume of said pole anchoring sleeve, thereby locking said pole assembly to said pole anchoring device.

5 127. The transportable basketball system of claim 2, wherein said pole anchoring device includes a pole anchoring plate having perforations which allow grains of dry sand to flow therethrough, and set up with surrounding grains of sand when the buried pole anchoring plate is buried beneath a bed of dry sand during the pole installation process.

10 128. The transportable basketball system of claim 1, in combination with a flexible carrying case for carrying said transportable basketball system when said transportable basketball system is arranged in said play configuration.

15 129. A pole anchoring device for supporting a pole assembly and a basketball backboard assembly operably connected thereto, said pole anchoring device comprising:

a pole anchoring sleeve having a hollow inner volume for receipt of a portion of said pole assembly; and

20 a plurality of perforations formed through said pole anchoring sleeve, permitting the passage of grains of said sand into said hollow inner volume when said pole anchoring sleeve is driven beneath said sand bed.

25 130. The pole anchoring device of claim 1, which further comprises:

a set of sand-engaging threads formed on the external surface of said pole anchoring sleeve; and

30 a set of handle structures provided on said pole anchoring sleeve, enabling a user to rotate said pole anchoring device while pushing said pole anchoring device into said sand bed, thereby screwing said pole anchoring sleeve beneath said sand bed.